

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

-----087675 041927Z /46

R 040930Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6512

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2031

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF, PFOR

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SEEKS DIALOGUE
WITH AFRIKANER COMMUNITY

1. SUMMARY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING HELD THIS PAST WEEK (JULY 25-29) AT HAMMANSKRAAL (TRANSVAAL), DEMONSTRATED AN AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO PROMOTE BLACK-AFRIKANER DIALOGUE BY ELECTING A BLACK DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH DOMINEE (PASTOR) AS PRESIDENT AND INVITING A VERLIGTE AFRIKANER PROFESSOR OF LAW TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES FOR PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN A MULTIRACIAL SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SAC'S NEW PRESIDENT, SAM BUTI, IS AN AFRIKAANS-SPEAKING (AS WELL AS ENGLISH-SPEAKING) DUTCH REFORMED MINISTER KNOWN FOR HIS "NON-POLITICAL" VIEWS AND "ABSENCE OF MALICE". WHILE DR BUTI IS KNOWN PARTICULARLY FOR HIS HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, HE WAS CHOSEN, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICER PROMINENT IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SACC, TO "REZCH OUT TO THE AFRIKANER COMMUNITY AND GET THEM TO SPEAK WITH US (BLACKS)."

3. THE CONFERENCE WAS THROWN INTO AN UPROAR WHEN AN AFRIKANER PROFESSOR OF LAW, JOHAN VAN DER VYVER, AT CONSERVATIVE POTCHEFSTROOM UNIVERSITY, ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT A DISCUSSION OF FUTURE POLITICAL PARTICIPATIO IN SOUTH AFRICA ALONG ETHNIC LINES. AS THIS

SUBJECT IS ANATHEMA TO MOST BLACKS, MANY IN ATTENDANCE REACTED EMOTIONALLY TO THE SUGGESTIONS AND SOUGHT TO CUT OFF FURTHER DEBATE. OTHERS CALLED FOR "HEARING THE OTHER MAN'S POINT OF VIEW" AND DR. VAN DER VYVER WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE HIS PRESENTATION. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS INCIDENT WAS NOT ONLY THAT BLACKS LISTENED TO AN AFRIKANER INTELLECTUAL PRESENT HIS VIEWS (VERLIGTE THOUGH THEY WERE) BUT THAT THE SACC (WITH A STRONG BLACK REPRESENTATION) DEMONSTRATED ITS INTEREST IN DIALOGUE WITH AFRIKANERS PROVIDING THEY WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE BLACK VIEWPOINT AS WELL.

4. OTHER CONFERENCE TOPICS THAT PROVED TO BE OF INTERET WERE CALLS TO DISCUSS "THE DANGER OF REVENGE WHEN THE BLACK MAN IS FREE", THE NEED FOR THE SACC TO PLAY A MORE VIGOROUS ROLE IN HELPING THE FAMILIES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES, AND A WARNING THAT THE EMERGING PHILOSOPHY OF "BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS" RAN THE RISK OF BECOMING "TINGED WITH ARROGANCE."
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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